GOLD KEY

10145-805
MAY

M.A.R.S. PATROL

12c

M.A.R.S.* PATROL TOTAL WAR

*Marine Attack Rescue Service

A city is doomed unless the M.A.R.S. team can penetrate the invaders' curtain of invisibility!

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HIGH ABOVE THE SMOKING RUINS OF A PACIFIC COAST TOWN...

A PLANE! IT'S THE INVADERS! THOSE BLASTED BALDIES ARE GOING TO **BOMB** AGAIN!

TAKE COVER!

NO! IT'S OKAY! THAT IS ONE OF **OURS!**

THANK HEAVENS! I COULDN'T TAKE ANY MORE... NOT AFTER WHAT **WE'VE** BEEN THROUGH!

YES, THE SLEEK BOMBER BELONGS TO A WORLD-FAMOUS FLYING COMMAND...

IT'S FROM THE **MARS PATROL!**

THAT HOT-SHOT FIGHTING TEAM! WELL, WHY DON'T THEY DO SOMETHING TO STOP THE INVADERS?

IN A TOP-SECRET COMPARTMENT OF THE PLANE...

ANOTHER HIT-AND-RUN RAID... AND WE'RE TOO LATE TO HELP! ALL RIGHT, GENERAL KRIPPS, BRING IN THAT COMBAT SQUAD OF YOURS, AND LET'S GET ROLLING!

AT ONCE, ADMIRAL!

MOMENTS LATER...
ADMIRAL, MEET LIEUTENANT CY ADAMS, MY SPECIALIST IN AERIAL COMBAT!
SERGEANT JOE STRIKER, COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT!
SERGEANT KEN HIRO, OUR TOP MAN IN SEAGOING WARFARE!
CORPORAL RUSS STACEY, OUR WEAPONS WIZARD!
AT EASE, MEN!
MEN, THIS IS ADMIRAL DANTON, COMMANDER OF THE PACIFIC SEA-FRONTIER! HE'LL BRIEF YOU ON YOUR NEW MISSION!
I'LL START WITH A RUN-DOWN ON THE WORLD-WIDE SITUATION!
CLICK! CLICK!
1000 MILES UP IN SPACE THE ADMIRAL'S SIGNAL ACTIVATES A LONG-RANGE "SEEING EYE" SATELLITE...
CLICK! HUMMMM!
SECONDS LATER BACK IN THE COMMAND PLANE...
HERE IT IS...AN ON-THE-SPOT CLOSE-UP OF THE NEW INVADER BEACHHEAD IN SCANDINAVIA! THEY CAME OUT OF NOWHERE TO ATTACK THE FORTIFIED SWEDISH DESTROYER-PENS!
WHAM!
BANG!

SECONDS LATER...

AND THERE'S JUST BEEN A NEW BREAKTHROUGH AT GILBRALTAR! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THOSE ENEMY VESSELS, SERGEANT HIRO!

YES SIR! THOSE ARE ADVANCED VERSIONS OF OUR OWN HOVERCRAFT ARMED WITH BEEFED-UP *LASER-WEAPONS!*

AND THESE ARE THE RUINS OF *STATION ALPHA* ON OUR *DEW* LINE,* THE RADAR INSTALLATION THE INVADERS CAPTURED IN THE ARCTIC! I UNDERSTAND YOUR TEAM RECAPTURED IT, LIEUTENANT ADAMS!

YES SIR, BUT WE TOOK NO PRISONERS! THEY DIED TO THE LAST MAN!

*DISTANT EARLY WARNING LINE

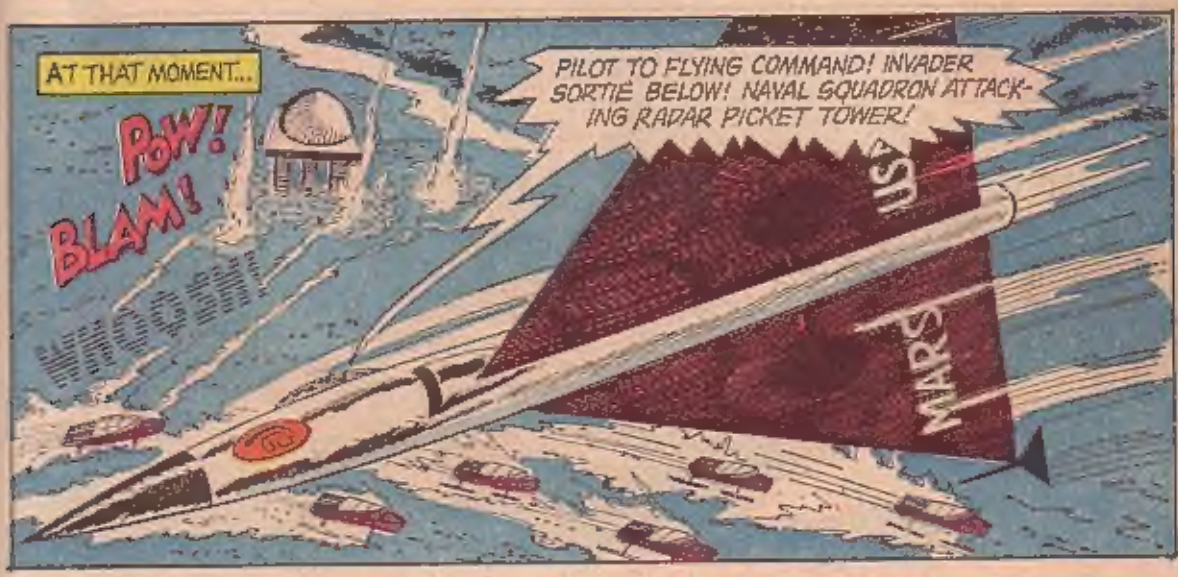
NOW FOR A CLOSE-UP OF THE ENEMY! THEY SEEM TO BE BALD AND HAIRLESS! THEY APPEAR TO BE HUMAN!

HUMAN? BUT, SIR, TESTS HAVE SHOWN THEIR BLOOD TYPES ARE UNLIKE *ANYTHING* WE KNOW ON EARTH!

YOU'RE RIGHT, OF COURSE, CORPORAL STACEY! AND THIS CAPTURED BALDY EQUIPMENT IS MADE OF METALS OUR TECHNOLOGISTS CAN'T EVEN IDENTIFY!

OUR INTELLIGENCE EXPERTS SUGGEST THE INVADERS ARE ALIENS FROM ANOTHER PLANET! BUT I'M NOT SURE!
BUT, SIR, THEY MUST BE! THEIR SCIENCE IS CENTURIES AHEAD OF OURS!

SERGEANT STRIKER IS CORRECT! THE BALDIES MADE THIS 10-STORY HIGH RADAR DETECTOR DISAPPEAR INTO THIN AIR UP ON THE DEW LINE!
TELEPORTATION? BAH!! I DON'T BELIEVE IT!


AT THAT MOMENT...
POW!
BLAM!
PILOT TO FLYING COMMAND! INVADER SORTIE BELOW! NAVAL SQUADRON ATTACKING RADAR PICKET TOWER!
USN
MARS

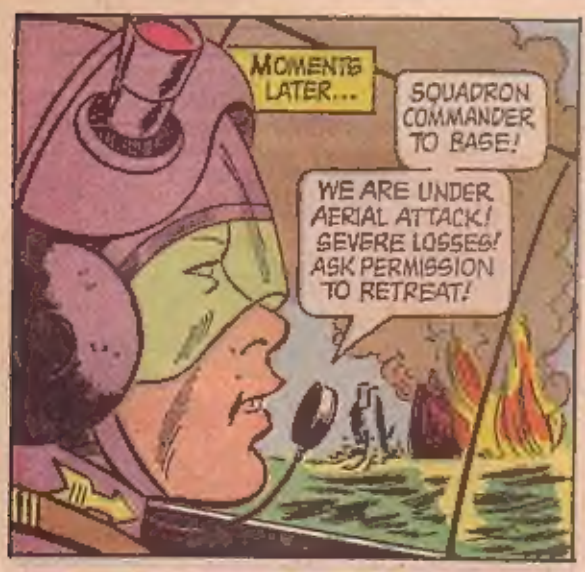
BATTLE STATIONS, ALL HANDS! WE'RE GOING TO CREAM THOSE SKINHEADS!
BUT, SIR, WE CAN'T RISK COMBAT! YOU ARE THE MILITARY COMMANDER OF THE ENTIRE PACIFIC COAST!

THAT'S RIGHT, GENERAL, I'M IN COMMAND! AND I ORDER YOU TO ATTACK THAT SQUADRON... HOP TO IT!
YES SIR!
LET'S GO, MEN!

INSTANTS LATER...
YOU HEARD THE MAN, RUSS! HE SAID BATTLE STATIONS!
JUST LET ME GET THOSE BALDIES IN MY SIGHTS, JOE BUDDY!

AS ANCESTORS ONCE SAY: "YOU MAY FIRE WHEN YOU ARE READY, GRIDLEY!"
POOW-POWW-
POW-POWW!

AS MARS MEN ZERO IN...
CLOBBER THEM, BOYS! IT'S OPEN SEASON ON SKINHEADS!
WHOOSH!
ZOOOMM!
BUDDA-BUDDA-BUDDA!
BLAM!


MOMENTS LATER...
SQUADRON COMMANDER TO BASE!
WE ARE UNDER AERIAL ATTACK! SEVERE LOSSES! ASK PERMISSION TO RETREAT!

BASE TO SQUADRON COMMAND! PERMISSION GRANTED! ADJUST TELEPORT TRANSDUCER PULSE LEVEL TO ZERO COHESION FACTOR!
COHESION FACTOR ADJUSTED! PREPARE FOR TELEPORT RECEPTION!

SECONDS LATER, AN INCREDIBLE PHENOMENON...

GREAT BALLS OF FIRE! THOSE BALDY HYDROFOILS ARE DISAPPEARING BEFORE OUR EYES!

HOW DO THEY DO IT, SERGEANT?

TELEPORTATION, SIR! YOU'VE GOT TO *BELIEVE* IT WHEN YOU *SEE* IT!

SOON AFTERWARD, BACK IN THE FLYING COMMAND CENTER...

THAT HIT-AND-RUN RAID FITS INTO A PATTERN, MEN! THE INVADERS HAVE BEEN KNOCKING OUT OUR COAST DEFENSES ONE BY ONE!

SOMETHING'S UP! BUT *WHAT?* ALL WE KNOW IS THAT THE RAIDS CENTER AROUND SAN FRANCISCO!

YOU THINK THE BALDIES HAVE A BASE NEAR SAN FRANCISCO? BUT HOW COULD THEY HIDE IT IN SUCH A HEAVILY POPULATED AREA?

A GOOD QUESTION, LIEUTENANT ADAMS! WE HOPE YOUR *MARS* SQUAD WILL FIND THE ANSWER!

YES, MEN, SOME WEIRD THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING ON IN FRISCO! YOU BOYS HAD BETTER BE BRACED FOR ACTION THE MOMENT WE LAND!

MARS

AS THE MARS TEAM LANDS...

ALL RIGHT, LET'S KEEP OUR EYES ON THE BALL, KEN BUDDY!

I'LL CATCH UP IN A MINUTE, JOE! I'VE JUST SPOTTED SOMEONE I USED TO KNOW!

INCOMING FLIGHT 1401

PATRICIA! PATRICIA CHEN!

KEN! OH, KEN, IT'S BEEN SO LONG! BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU WRITE?

LAST TIME I SAW YOU YOU SEEMED TO BE MORE INTERESTED IN THAT WELL-PAID AIRLINE PILOT, REMEMBER?

NOW, KEN! ROMANCE CAN BE EXCITING!... BUT A GIRL HAS TO THINK OF THE FUTURE!

BUT, LOOK, I'LL BE IN TOWN FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS BETWEEN FLIGHTS! LET'S GET TOGETHER FOR OLD-TIMES' SAKE! I'M AT THE SAME ADDRESS!

I'LL CALL YOU, PAT!

AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE P.A. SYSTEM...

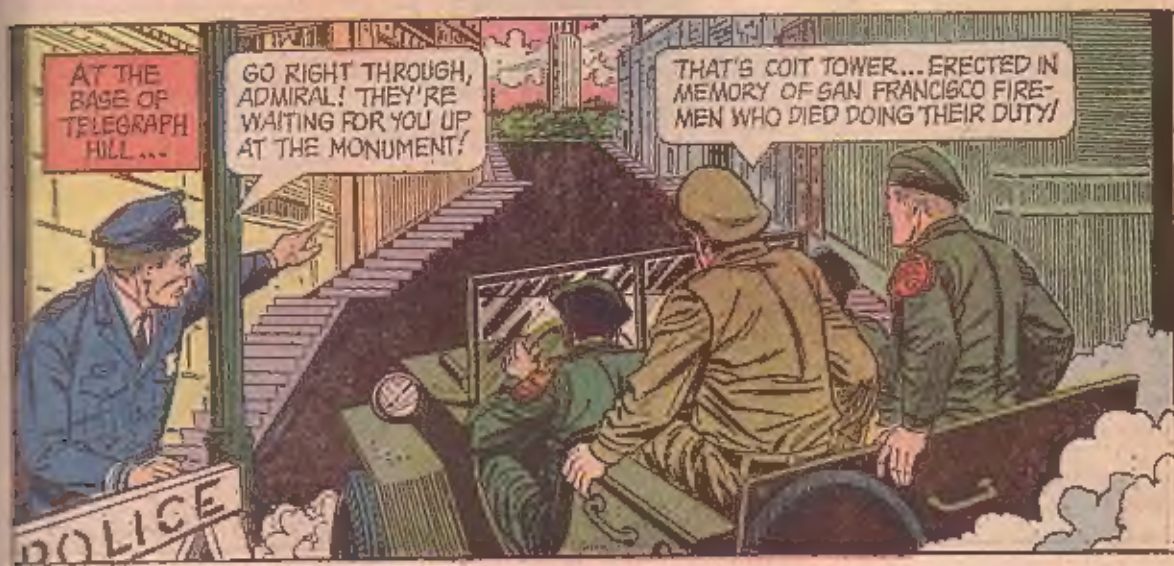
ATTENTION! WILL ADMIRAL DANTON PLEASE REPORT TO THE FLIGHT CONTROL TOWER! AN EMERGENCY CALL IS WAITING FOR HIM!

UH-OH! SOUNDS LIKE TROUBLE! LET'S GO, MEN!

SOON IN A NEARBY OFFICE...
CONDITION RED, SIR! IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN! THIS TIME AT COIT TOWER!
ON TELEGRAPH HILL?... WHEN DID IT BEGIN?

FIRST VIBRATIONS STARTED ABOUT 15 MINUTES AGO! OSCILLATIONS INCREASING IN FREQUENCY... EVERY SECOND!
HAVE THE AREA CORDONED OFF! I'LL BE THERE ON THE DOUBLE!

PRESENTLY, AS A CAVALCADE SWEEPS THROUGH THE CITY...
CARE TO FILL US IN, ADMIRAL?
IT'S ONE OF THOSE WEIRD OCCURRENCES I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT, LIEUTENANT ADAMS! ONE PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS, SO I'LL GIVE YOUR TEAM AN ON-THE-SPOT DEMONSTRATION!
MARS
POLIC


AT THE BASE OF TELEGRAPH HILL...
GO RIGHT THROUGH, ADMIRAL! THEY'RE WAITING FOR YOU UP AT THE MONUMENT!
THAT'S COIT TOWER... ERECTED IN MEMORY OF SAN FRANCISCO FIREMEN WHO DIED DOING THEIR DUTY!
POLICE

BUT AS THE *MARS* TEAM ALIGHTS...

WHA A AT G G VES? ALL OF A S-S SUDDEN I-I M SH-SHAK.NG L L-L KE A L-L-LEAF!

M ME, TOO! V BRAT NG L-L KE A F-FOLK S-S NGER'S GU-I-ITAR!

A AND L LOOK AT TH-THAT T-TOWER!

R-RUMMMMMMBLE!

CRASH!

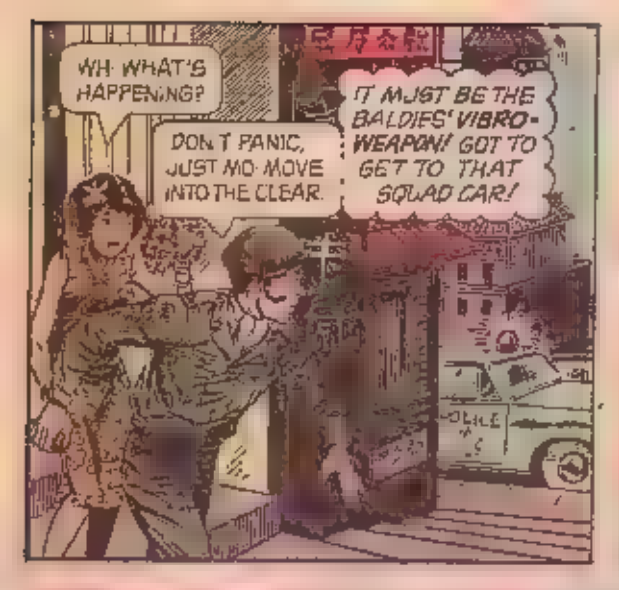
THE TO TOWER! THE V BRATONS ARE CRACK NG THE MA MASONRY!

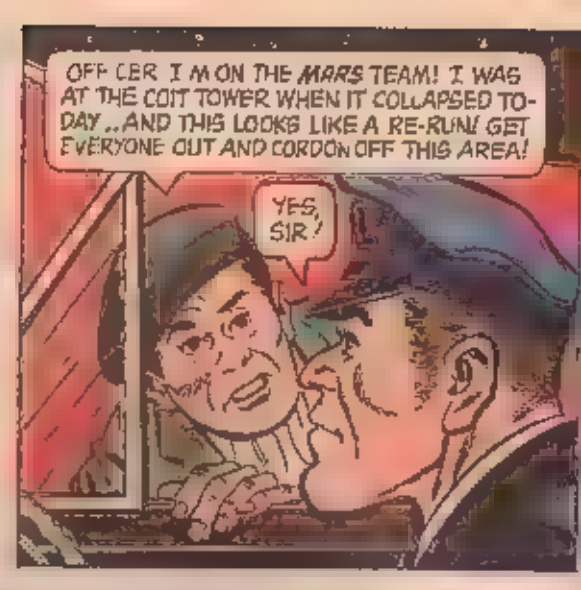
THE WHOLE TH TH NG'S *T-T-TOPPLING!* EVERYBODY G GET BACK!

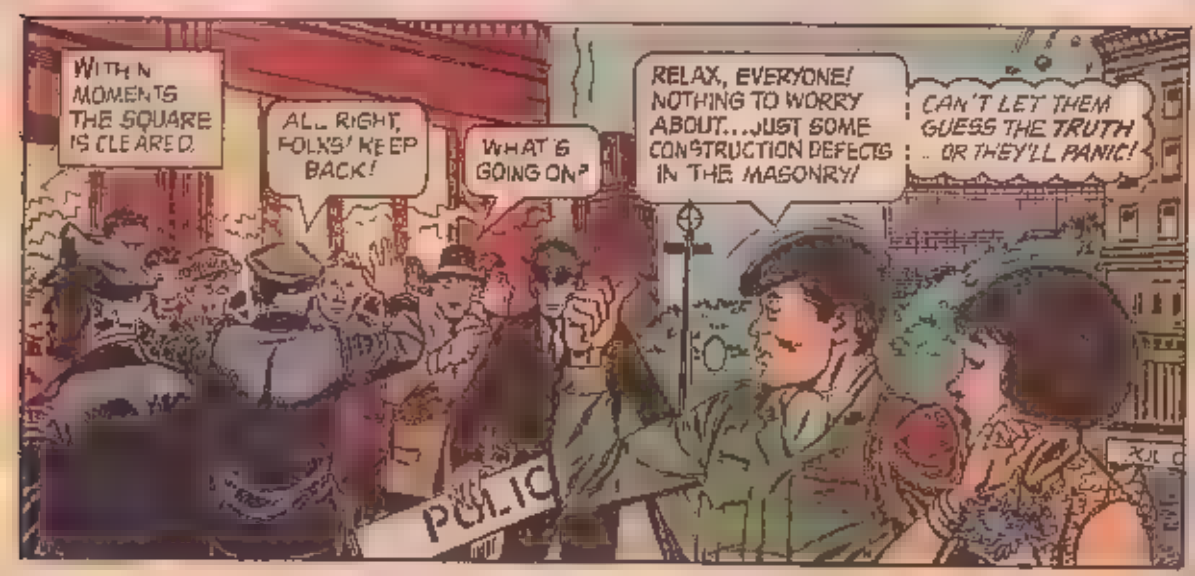
THOSE VIBRATIONS THEY'VE STOPPED!
THEY ALWAYS DO, LIEUTENANT AFTER THE DAMAGE IS DONE! WE BELIEVE THESE HIGHLY LOCALIZED EARTH VIBRATIONS ARE SOMEHOW CAUSED BY THE INVADERS!
ALL RIGHT SERGEANT STACEY, YOU'RE MARS TOP WEAPONS WHIZ KID! CAN THE BALDIES REALLY HAVE A WEAPON THAT WILL SIMULATE AN EARTH-QUAKE?
IT FIGURES SIR! WE SAW SOMETHING LIKE THIS WHEN WE STOPPED THEM IN THE ARCTIC
"A GIANT ELECTRONIC VIBRATION PROJECTOR, WHICH KNOCKED OUR HEAVIEST BOMBERS OUT OF THE SKY..."
HUMMMMM!
IF THE BALDIES HAVE A WEAPON LIKE THIS WE'RE IN BAD SHAPE!
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW BAD IT IS, SERGEANT! I'LL GIVE YOU A GUIDED TOUR ON THE WAY BACK TO MY HEADQUARTERS!
AS THE MARS
WE'RE BEGINNING TO GET THE PICTURE ADMIRAL

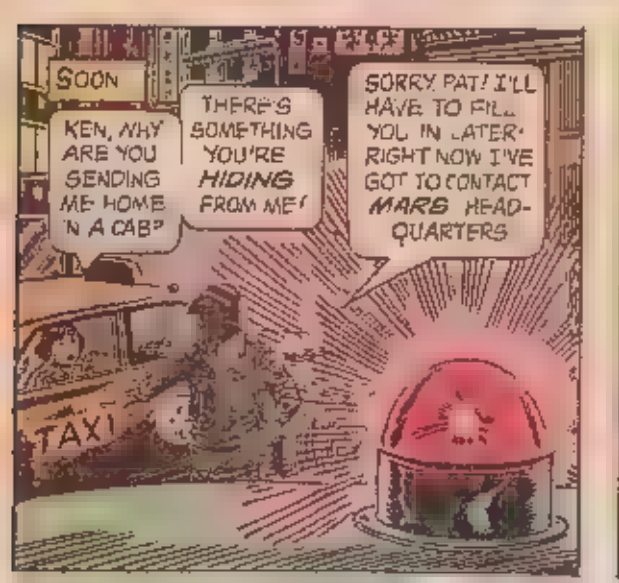
SOON AT THE ADMIRAL'S HEADQUARTERS.
WE'VE KEPT THE PUBLIC IN THE DARK. I BELIEVE THE BAD ES WANT TO PANIC THE POPULATION OUT OF SAN FRANCISCO
THAT WAY THEY'D CAPTURE ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT NATURAL HARBORS, COMPLETE WITH BRIDGES, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT FACILITIES!
THE SEISMOLOGISTS, WITH THE LATEST REPORTS.
SEND THEM IN!
IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD, ADMIRAL! ALL THAT WE CAN SAY IS THAT THE QUAKES SEEM TO CENTER AROUND THE BAY AREA EAST OF GOLDEN GATE
WE HAVE SEARCHED THOSE WATERS TIME AND AGAIN! THERE IS NOTHING OUT THERE.
BUT WE MUST FIND THE CAUSE OF THOSE TREMORS! SAN FRANCISCO RESTS ON THE SAN ANDREAS FAULT, A WEAK SPOT IN THE EARTH'S CRUST THAT CAUSED THE QUAKE OF 1905. THOSE MINOR QUAKES MAY TRIGGER A GREATER CATASTROPHE.
POWELL THEATER
NOW SHOWING

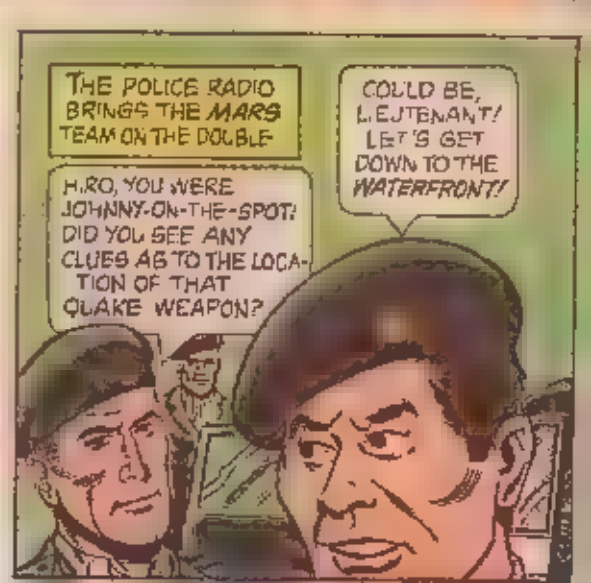
THAT'S WHY WE CALLED IN YOUR MARS TEAM LIEUTENANT TO SEEK OUT AND ELIMINATE THAT INVADER EARTHQUAKE WEAPON BEFORE SAN FRANCISCO IS DESTROYED
WE'LL TRY ADMIRAL
THAT NIGHT AT THE MARS BARRACKS...
SINCE IT'S A HARDSHIP CASE, SGT HIRO, YOU CAN HAVE A PASS UNTIL MIDNIGHT USE MY PHONE TO CALL MISS CHEN!
THANKS, SKIPPER
THE HOURS THAT FOLLOW ARE A GAY REUNION FOR KEN AND HIS OLD FLAME
OH KEN THIS IS A BALL I HAVEN'T HAD SO MUCH FUN IN YEARS!
LATER AT FAMED FISHERMAN'S WHARF...
OH LOOK A FISHING BOAT STARTING A CRUISE ISN'T THIS AN ODD TIME FOR ANYONE TO GO FISHING?
IT'S THE MOONLIGHT, DOLL! MOONLIGHT DOES THINGS TO PEOPLE!
PRESENTLY AT PICTURESQUE GHIRARDELLI SQUARE
VIOLETS FOR ME? FOR A SOLDIER YOU'RE SENTIMENTAL!
I'VE ALWAYS BEEN SENTIMENTAL ABOUT YOU PAT MAYBE SOMEDAY-
SUDDENLY
KEN EVERYTHING'S SHAKING... VIBRATING!
BR BROTHER! IT'S LIKE BEING CAUGHT IN A MI-MIXMASTER!


WH- WHAT'S HAPPENING?
DON'T PANIC, JUST MO- MOVE INTO THE CLEAR.
IT MUST BE THE BALDIES' VIBRO-WEAPON! GOT TO GET TO THAT SQUAD CAR!

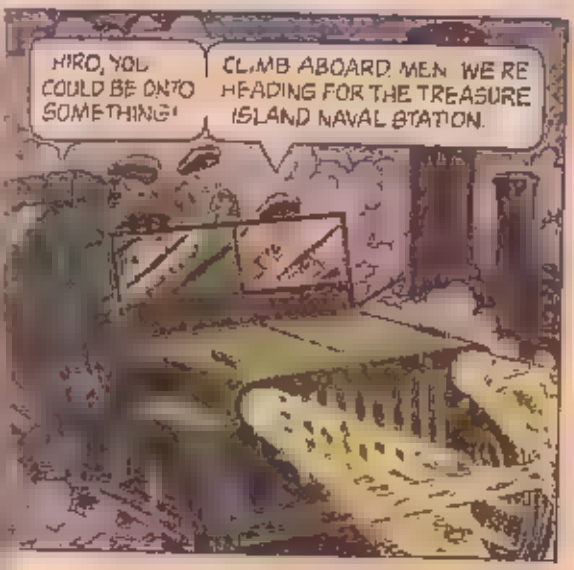

OFFICER I AM ON THE MARS TEAM! I WAS AT THE COIT TOWER WHEN IT COLLAPSED TODAY ..AND THIS LOOKS LIKE A RE-RUN! GET EVERYONE OUT AND CORDON OFF THIS AREA!
YES, SIR!

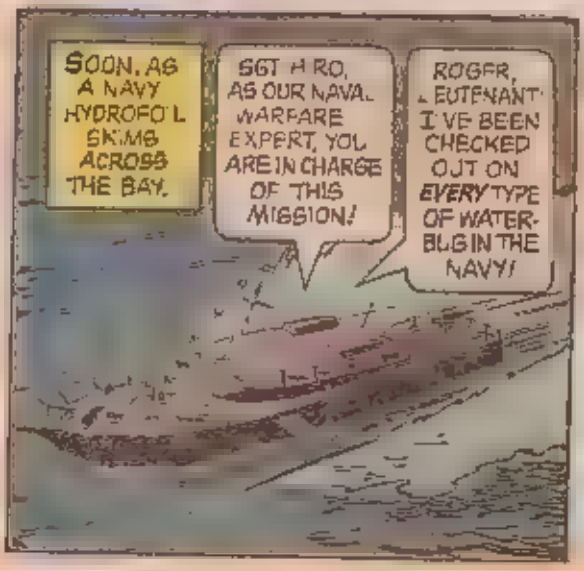

WITHIN MOMENTS THE SQUARE IS CLEARED.
ALL RIGHT, FOLKS! KEEP BACK!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
RELAX, EVERYONE! NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT...JUST SOME CONSTRUCTION DEFECTS IN THE MASONRY!
CAN'T LET THEM GUESS THE TRUTH .. OR THEY'LL PANIC!
PUBLIC

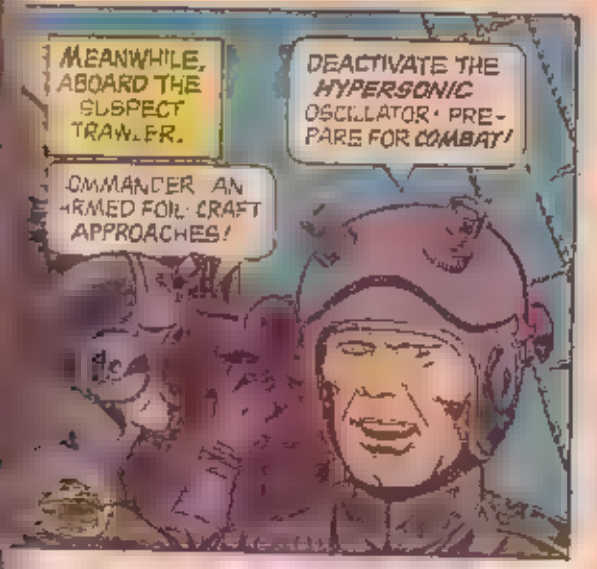

SOON
KEN, WHY ARE YOU SENDING ME HOME IN A CAB?
THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'RE HIDING FROM ME!
SORRY PAT! I'LL HAVE TO FILL YOU IN LATER! RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT TO CONTACT MARS HEADQUARTERS
TAXI

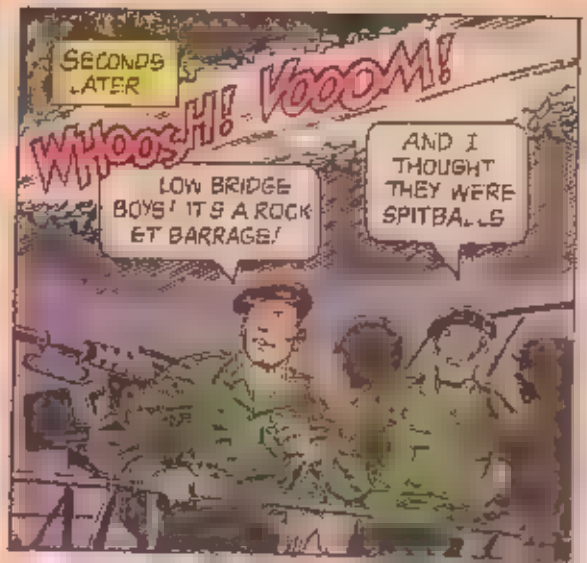

THE POLICE RADIO BRINGS THE MARS TEAM ON THE DOUBLE
HERO, YOU WERE JOHNNY-ON-THE-SPOT! DID YOU SEE ANY CLUES AS TO THE LOCATION OF THAT QUAKE WEAPON?
COULD BE, LIEUTENANT! LET'S GET DOWN TO THE WATERFRONT!

M.A.R.S. PATROL
PART 2 THE SECRET OF THE BAY
JUST BEFORE THE QUAKE I SAW THAT FISHING TRAWLER HEAD OUT INTO THE BAY!
HMM SHE'S MOORED IN THE AREA WE'VE BEEN SUSPICIOUS ABOUT!

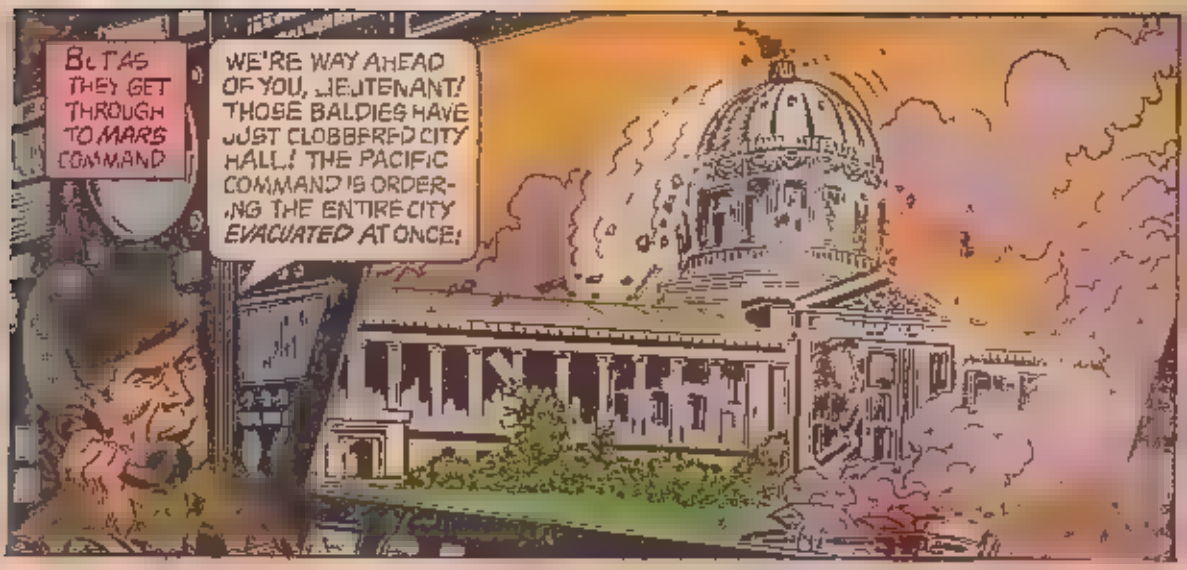

HIRO, YOU COULD BE ONTO SOMETHING!
CLIMB ABOARD MEN WE'RE HEADING FOR THE TREASURE ISLAND NAVAL STATION.

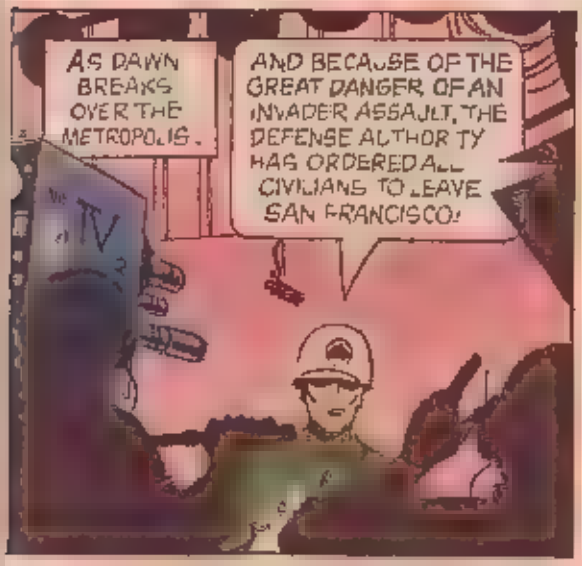

SOON, AS A NAVY HYDROFOIL SKIMS ACROSS THE BAY.
SGT HIRO, AS OUR NAVAL WARFARE EXPERT, YOU ARE IN CHARGE OF THIS MISSION!
ROGER, LIEUTENANT I'VE BEEN CHECKED OUT ON EVERY TYPE OF WATER-BUG IN THE NAVY!


MEANWHILE, ABOARD THE SUSPECT TRAWLER.
DEACTIVATE THE HYPERSONIC OSCILLATOR! PREPARE FOR COMBAT!
COMMANDER AN ARMED FOIL CRAFT APPROACHES!

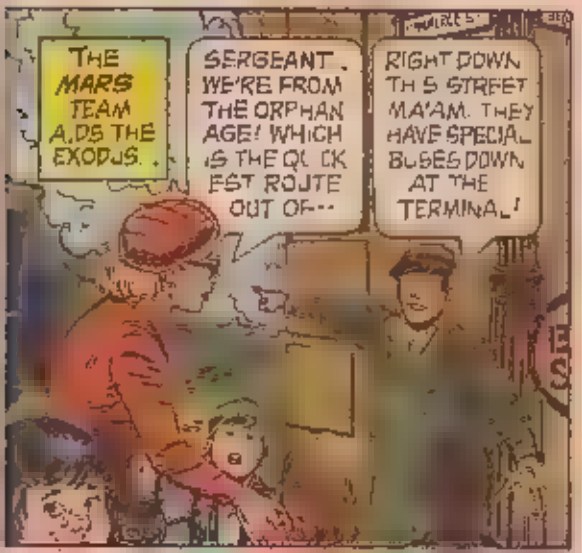

SECONDS LATER
WHOOSH! VOOOM!
LOW BRIDGE BOYS! IT'S A ROCKET BARRAGE!
AND I THOUGHT THEY WERE SPITBALLS

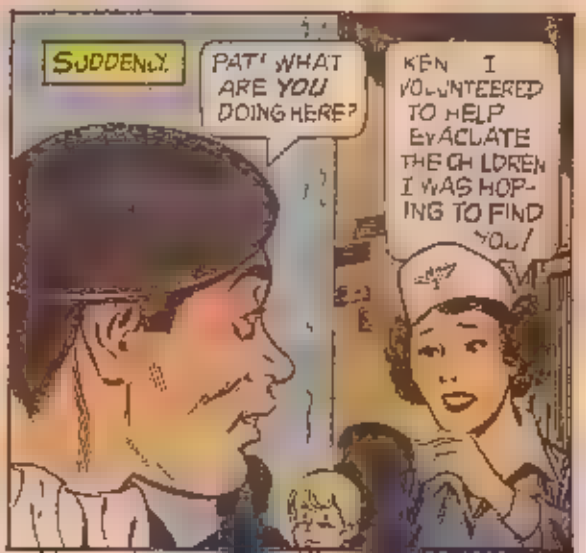
YOU GUYS!
WHARRAAAAA
THAT DOES
SOON, ABOARD THE SHATTERED VESSEL...
TALK ABOUT DISASTER AREAS!... THIS CRAFT IS A FLOATING MORGUE!
ONLY ONE BALDY LEFT ALIVE FROM HIS INSIGNIA, IT COULD BE THE COMMANDER!
DRIVE
HE'S GONE...BUT YOU YOU HEARD HIM, LIEUTENANT! THEY COULD HAVE HUNDREDS OF THOSE QUAKE WEAPONS ZEROED IN ON SAN FRANCISCO!
LET'S GET ASHORE! I MUST CONTACT GENERAL KRIPPS AT ONCE!


BUT AS THEY GET THROUGH TO MARS COMMAND
WE'RE WAY AHEAD OF YOU, LIEUTENANT! THOSE BALDIES HAVE JUST CLOBBERED CITY HALL! THE PACIFIC COMMAND IS ORDERING THE ENTIRE CITY EVACUATED AT ONCE!

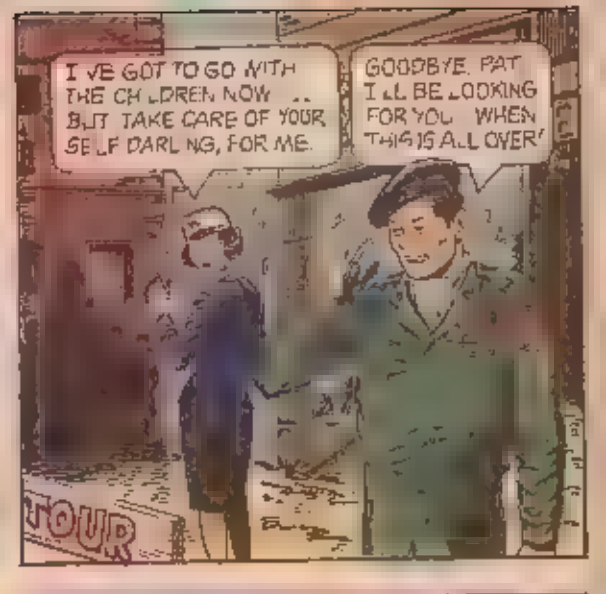

AS DAWN BREAKS OVER THE METROPOLIS.
AND BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DANGER OF AN INVADER ASSAULT, THE DEFENSE AUTHORITY HAS ORDERED ALL CIVILIANS TO LEAVE SAN FRANCISCO!

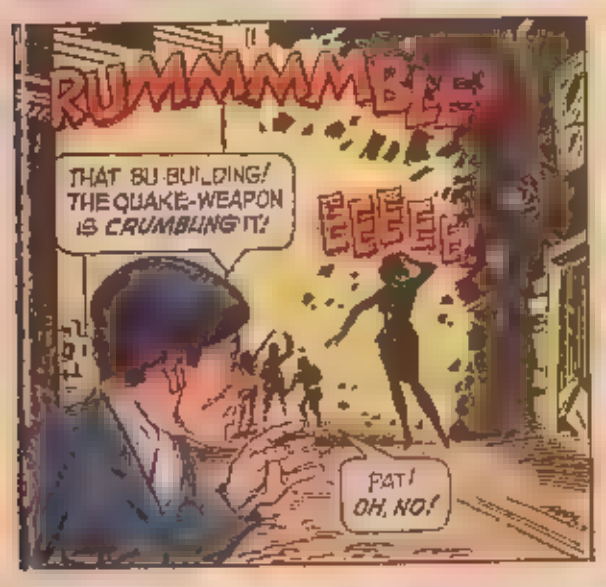
AT PRESENT ALL FREEWAYS AND BRIDGES LEADING FROM THE CITY ARE OPEN BUT TRAFFIC IS BUILDING UP RAPIDLY! LEAVE YOUR CARS AND PROCEED ON FOOT.. DON'T PANIC OBEY THE AUTHORITIES...
COMPANY
EXPRESS

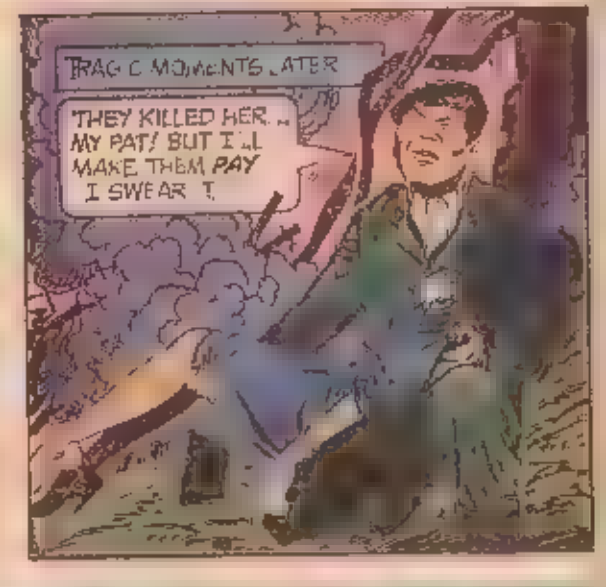

THE MARS TEAM AIDS THE EXODUS.
SERGEANT, WE'RE FROM THE ORPHANAGE! WHICH IS THE QUICKEST ROUTE OUT OF--
RIGHT DOWN THIS STREET MA'AM. THEY HAVE SPECIAL BUSES DOWN AT THE TERMINAL!

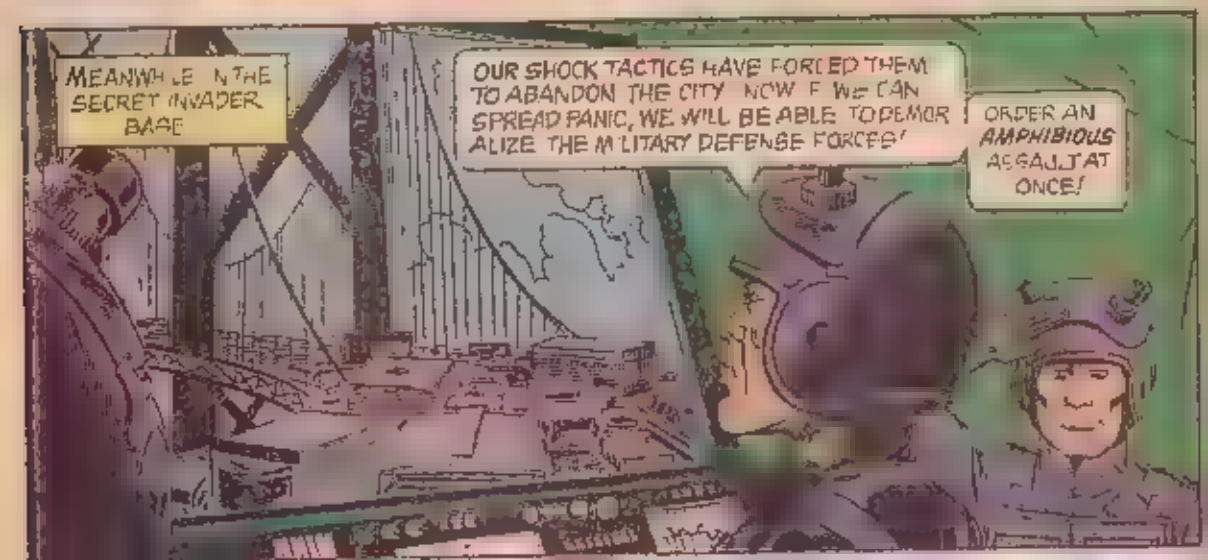

SUDDENLY.
PAT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
KEN I VOLUNTEERED TO HELP EVACUATE THE CHILDREN I WAS HOPING TO FIND YOU!

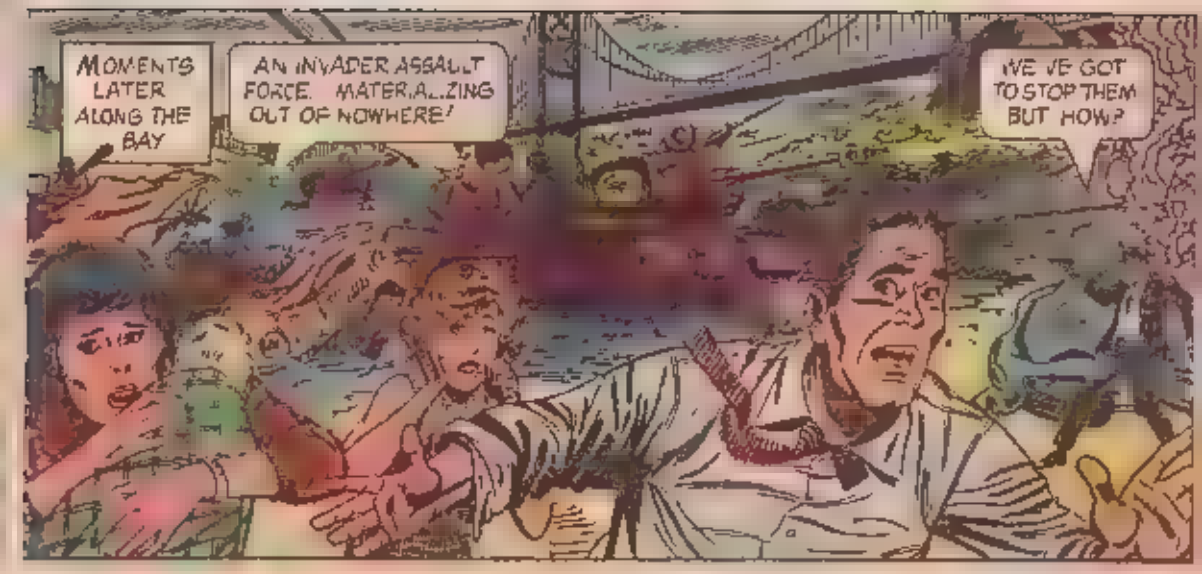
KEN, IT'S ONLY NOW THAT I REALIZE HOW WRONG I WAS ABOUT YOU! I SHOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD WHEN YOU JOINED THE MARS TEAM. IF I COULD ONLY TELL YOU HOW I FEEL NOW!
DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD, PAT! I READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR!


I'VE GOT TO GO WITH THE CHILDREN NOW ... BUT TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF DARLING, FOR ME.
GOODBYE, PAT. I'LL BE LOOKING FOR YOU WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER!

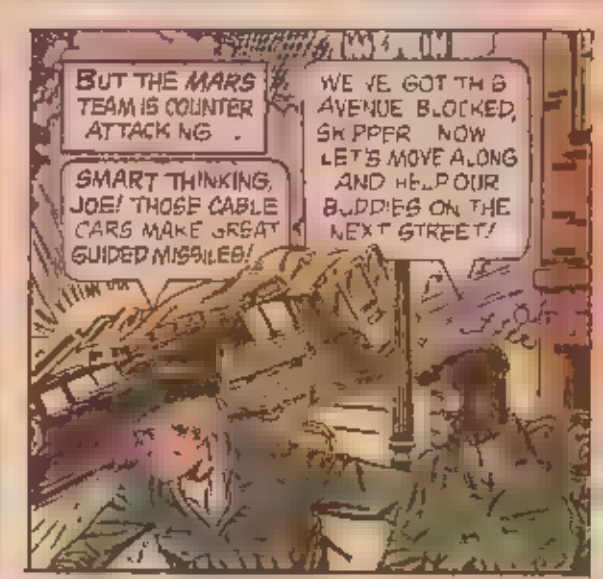

RUMMMMMBLE
THAT BU-BUILDING! THE QUAKE-WEAPON IS CRUMBLING IT!
PAT! OH, NO!

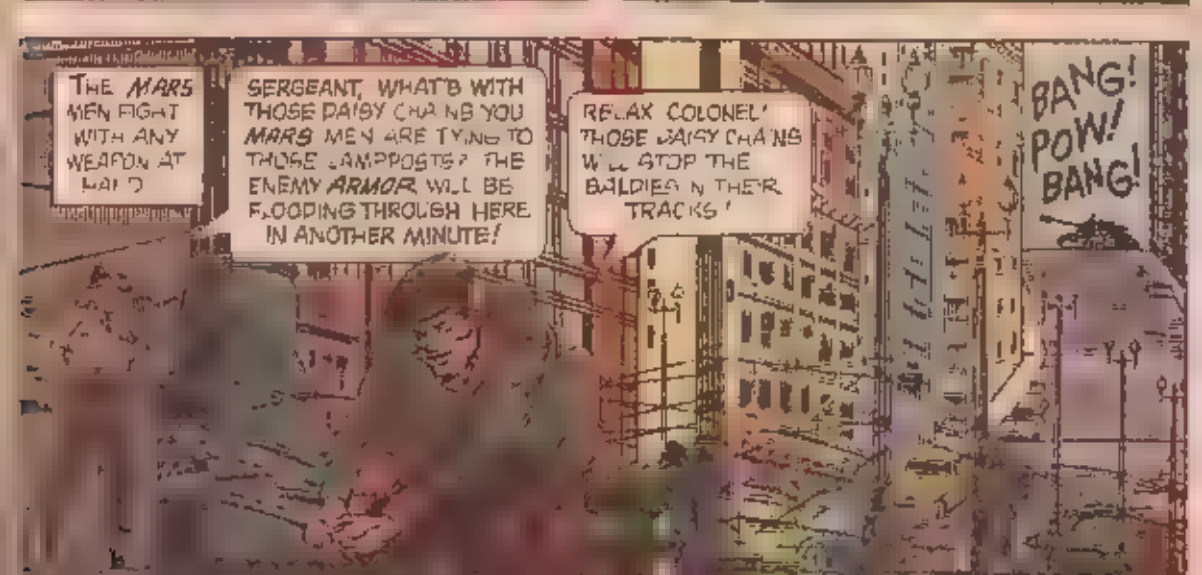

TRAGIC MOMENTS LATER
THEY KILLED HER... MY PAT! BUT I'LL MAKE THEM PAY. I SWEAR IT.

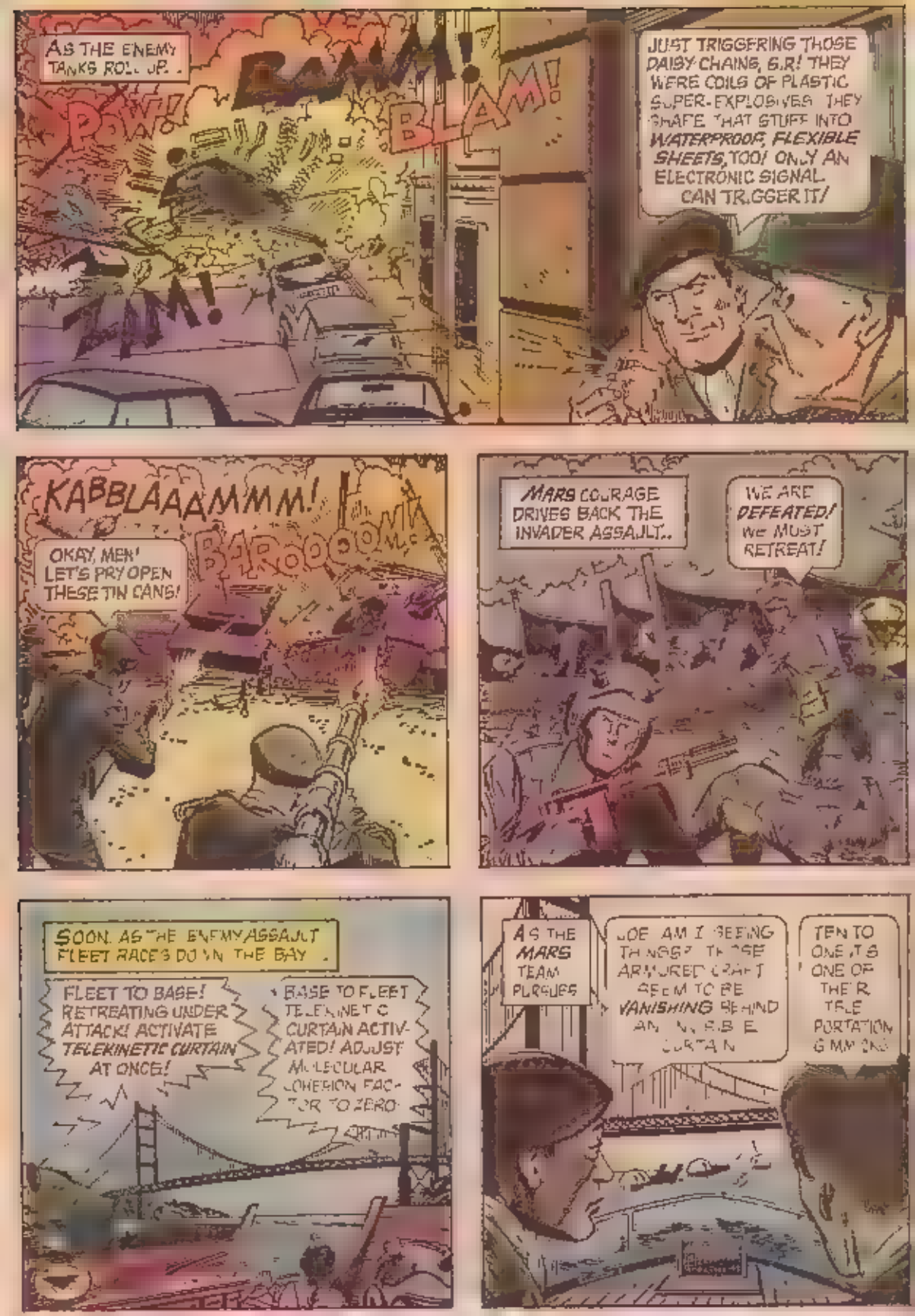

MEANWHILE IN THE SECRET INVADER BASE
OUR SHOCK TACTICS HAVE FORCED THEM TO ABANDON THE CITY. NOW, IF WE CAN SPREAD PANIC, WE WILL BE ABLE TO DEMORALIZE THE MILITARY DEFENSE FORCES!
ORDER AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AT ONCE!


MOMENTS LATER ALONG THE BAY
AN INVADER ASSAULT FORCE. MATERIALIZING OUT OF NOWHERE!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM BUT HOW?

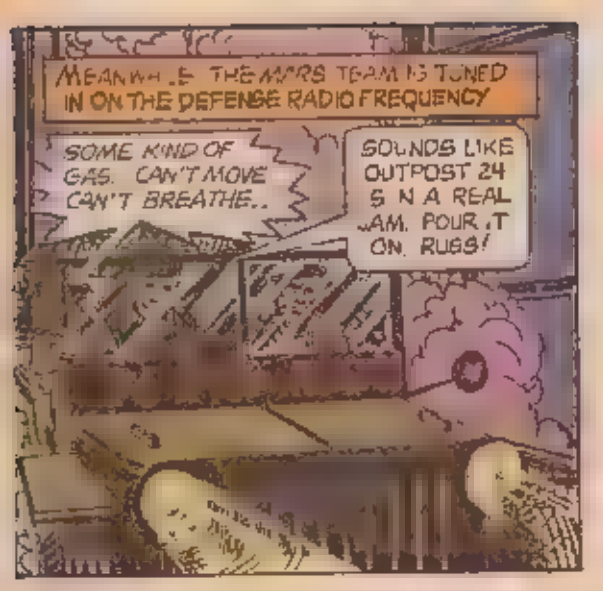
BARROOOM!
BARRAMM!
CLEAR THE BRIDGE! IT WILL BE AN IDEAL SITE FOR TESTING OUR MOST ADVANCED WEAPON THE TELEKINETIC CURTAIN!

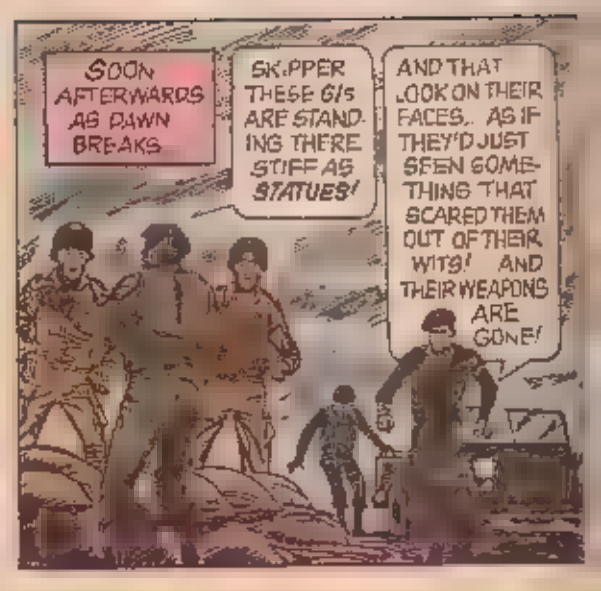

BUT THE MARS TEAM IS COUNTER ATTACKING.
SMART THINKING, JOE! THOSE CABLE CARS MAKE GREAT GUIDED MISSILES!
WE'VE GOT THE AVENUE BLOCKED, SKIPPER. NOW LET'S MOVE ALONG AND HELP OUR BUDDIES ON THE NEXT STREET!

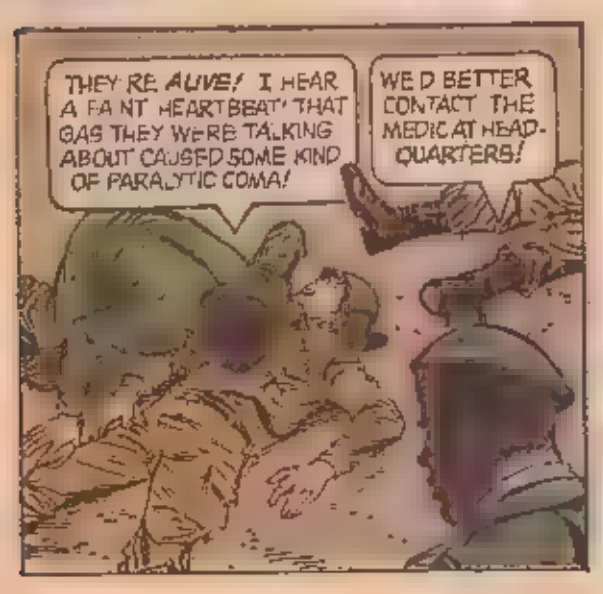

THE MARS MEN FIGHT WITH ANY WEAPON AT HAND
SERGEANT, WHAT'S WITH THOSE DAISY CHAINS YOU MARS MEN ARE TYING TO THOSE LAMPPOSTS? THE ENEMY ARMOR WILL BE FLOODING THROUGH HERE IN ANOTHER MINUTE!
RELAX COLONEL! THOSE DAISY CHAINS WILL STOP THE BALDIES IN THEIR TRACKS!
BANG! POW! BANG!

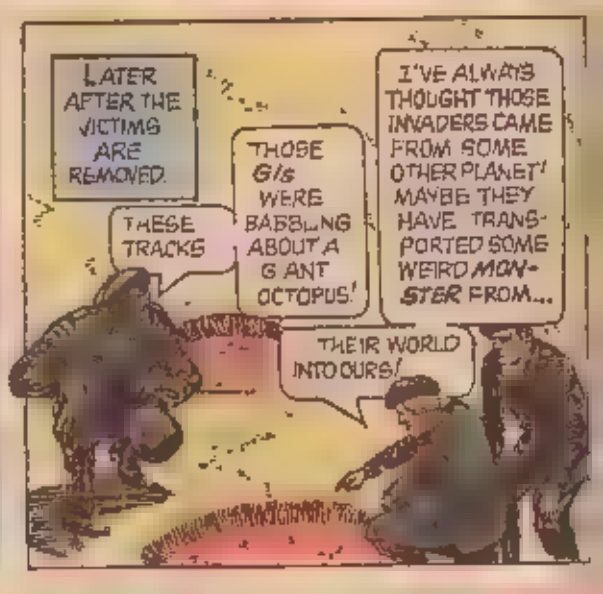

AS THE ENEMY TANKS ROLL UP...
POW!
BAMM!
BLAM!
ZAM!
JUST TRIGGERING THOSE DAISY CHAINS, G.R! THEY WERE COILS OF PLASTIC SUPER-EXPLOSIVES. THEY SHAPE THAT STUFF INTO WATERPROOF, FLEXIBLE SHEETS, TOO! ONLY AN ELECTRONIC SIGNAL CAN TRIGGER IT!
KABBLAAAMMM!
BAROOOOOM
OKAY, MEN! LET'S PRY OPEN THESE TIN CANS!
MARS COURAGE DRIVES BACK THE INVADER ASSAULT..
WE ARE DEFEATED! WE MUST RETREAT!
SOON, AS THE ENEMY ASSAULT FLEET RACES DOWN THE BAY...
FLEET TO BASE! RETREATING UNDER ATTACK! ACTIVATE TELEKINETIC CURTAIN AT ONCE!
BASE TO FLEET TELEKINETIC CURTAIN ACTIVATED! ADJUST MOLECULAR COHESION FACTOR TO ZERO!
AS THE MARS TEAM PURSUES
JOE, AM I SEEING THINGS? THOSE ARMORED CRAFT SEEM TO BE VANISHING BEHIND AN INVISIBLE CURTAIN
TEN TO ONE IT'S ONE OF THEIR TELEPORTATION GIMMICKS

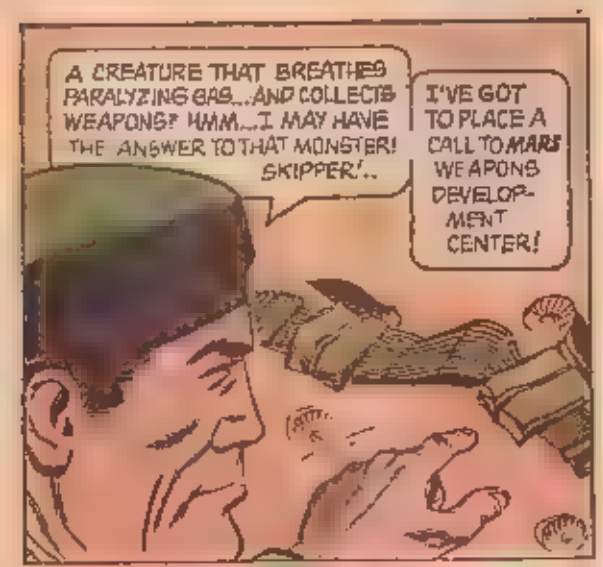
TURN THAT WHEEL STAY AWAY FROM THAT CURTAIN!
NO TELLING WHAT'S WAITING ON THE OTHER SIDE IT COULD BE AN AMBUSH!
SOON, AS THE MARS TEAM TAKES STOCK
GENERAL, I'M CONVINCED THAT INVISIBLE CURTAIN SOMEHOW TELEPORTED THE FLEET TO A SECRET BASE... SOMEWHERE IN THIS BAY
BUT WHERE LIEUTENANT?
WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OR WHEN THOSE BALDIES WILL ATTACK NEXT, BUT I HAVE...
.. ESTABLISHED A SERIES OF OUTPOSTS AROUND THE BAY!
LET'S HOPE THOSE MEN KEEP ON THEIR TOES!
BUT THAT NIGHT ALONG THE DEFENSE PERIMETER...
CHARLIE LOOK! .. TELL ME THIS ISN'T FOR REAL!
OUTPOST 24 TO COMMAND! SOMETHING STRANGE IS CLIMBING OUT OF THE WATER NEAR US! IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT OCTOPUS!
THE MONSTER IT'S COMING CLOSER BLOWING SOME KIND OF GAS AT US CAN'T MOVE CAN'T BREATHE!

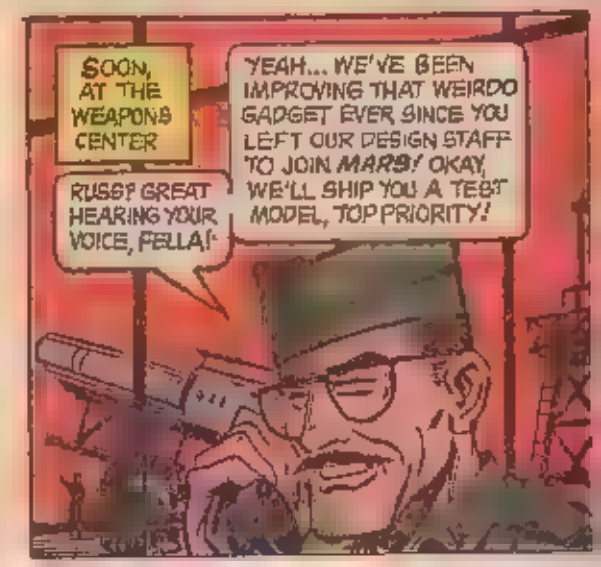

MEANWHILE THE MARS TEAM IS TUNED IN ON THE DEFENSE RADIO FREQUENCY
SOME KIND OF GAS. CAN'T MOVE CAN'T BREATHE..
SOUNDS LIKE OUTPOST 24 IS IN A REAL JAM. POUR IT ON, RUSS!


SOON AFTERWARDS AS DAWN BREAKS
SKIPPER THESE GIs ARE STANDING THERE STIFF AS STATUES!
AND THAT LOOK ON THEIR FACES.. AS IF THEY'D JUST SEEN SOMETHING THAT SCARED THEM OUT OF THEIR WITS! AND THEIR WEAPONS ARE GONE!


THEY'RE ALIVE! I HEAR A FAINT HEARTBEAT! THAT GAS THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT CAUSED SOME KIND OF PARALYTIC COMA!
WE'D BETTER CONTACT THE MEDICAL HEADQUARTERS!


LATER AFTER THE VICTIMS ARE REMOVED.
THESE TRACKS
THOSE GIs WERE BABBLING ABOUT A GIANT OCTOPUS!
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT THOSE INVADERS CAME FROM SOME OTHER PLANET! MAYBE THEY HAVE TRANSPORTED SOME WEIRD MONSTER FROM...
THEIR WORLD INTO OURS!


A CREATURE THAT BREATHES PARALYZING GAS...AND COLLECTS WEAPONS? HMM...I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT MONSTER! SKIPPER!..
I'VE GOT TO PLACE A CALL TO MARS WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT CENTER!


SOON, AT THE WEAPONS CENTER
RUSS? GREAT HEARING YOUR VOICE, FELLA!
YEAH... WE'VE BEEN IMPROVING THAT WEIRDO GADGET EVER SINCE YOU LEFT OUR DESIGN STAFF TO JOIN MARS! OKAY, WE'LL SHIP YOU A TEST MODEL, TOP PRIORITY!

TWO NIGHTS LATER, ALONG SAN FRANCISCO BAY...
JUST AS WE FIGURED! THOSE NEW MORTARS WE SET OUT BROUGHT THAT MONSTER ON THE DOUBLE!
I'LL PASS THE WORD!

IN A ROCKY CAVE NEARBY...
ALL RIGHT, CORPORAL! THIS IS IT!
RELAX, SKIPPER! OLD RUSS IS CARRYING THE BALL!

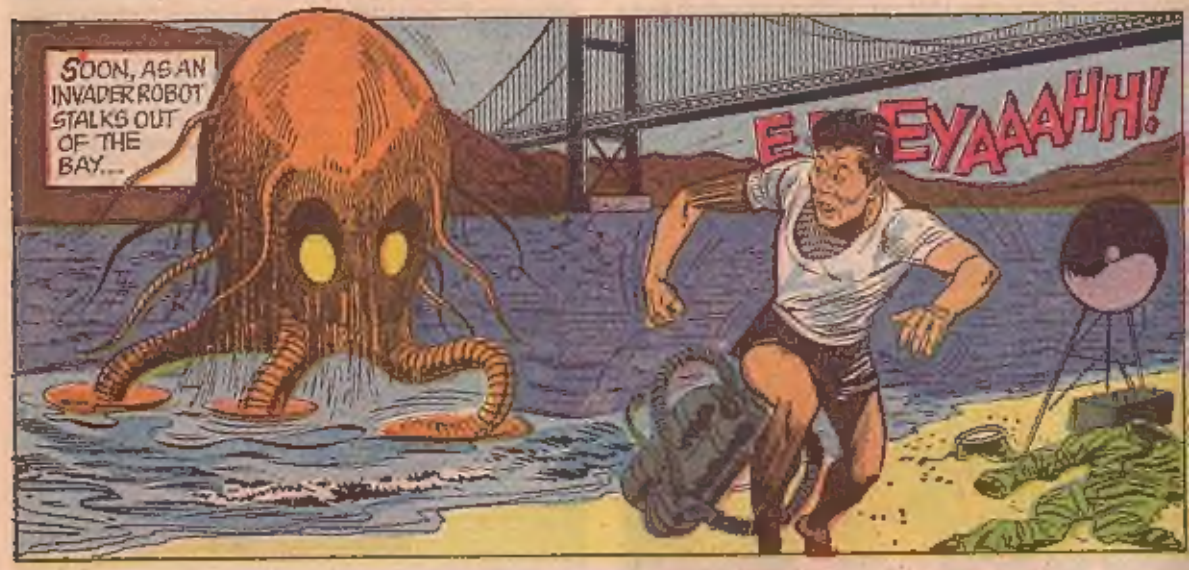
SECONDS LATER A BATTLE OF BEHEMOTHS ERUPTS ON THE BEACH...
CRUNCH!
RRRRRR
POW
TAKE THAT MONSTER APART!

AS THE FANTASTIC BATTLE ENDS...
JUST AS RUSS PREDICTED! IT WAS SOME KIND OF ROBOT ...OPERATED BY THAT DEAD BALDY!
CLEVERRR! BUT RUSS'S MECHANO-BIPED PUT THAT...
...GIZMO OUT OF COM-MISSION!

THEY SENT THAT GIMMICK TO RAID US FOR SAMPLES OF OUR LATEST WEAPONS! BUT WE STILL DON'T KNOW WHERE IT CAME FROM!
YOU MEAN THE SECRET INVADER BASE?

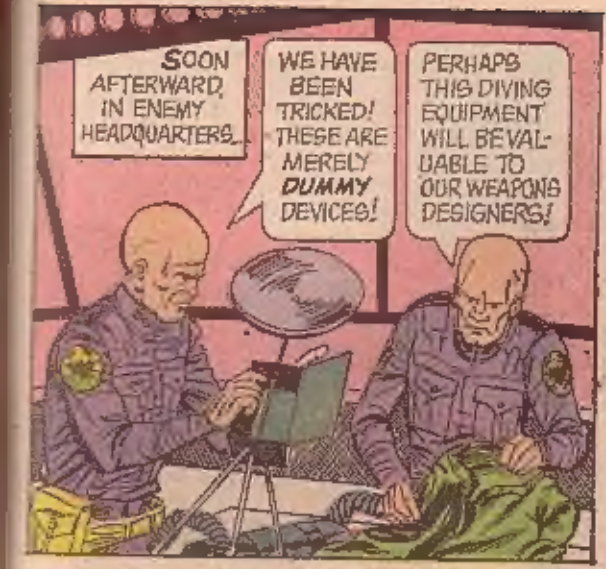
I THINK I KNOW HOW TO SMOKE THOSE BALDIES OUT INTO THE OPEN!
RUSS, REMEMBER HOW WE BLEW UP THOSE LAMPPOSTS TO STOP THAT TANK ATTACK! WELL, SUPPOSE WE PREPARE--

NEXT DAY, AT THE INVADERS' SECRET HEADQUARTERS...
LOOK! OUR SCANNER SHOWS AN ENEMY DIVER SETTING UP SOME KIND OF DETECTOR DEVICES ON THE SHORE!
THEY MAY BE ADVANCED WEAPONS!... WE'LL SEND A ROBO-SCOUT TO PICK THEM UP!


SOON, AS AN INVADER ROBOT STALKS OUT OF THE BAY...
EYAAAHH!

SCOUT TO BASE! DIVER FRIGHTENED OFF... PROBE RAY INDICATES ABANDONED DEVICES ARE HARMLESS! WILL COLLECT ALL EQUIPMENT FOR INVESTIGATION!

SNOOP TO EAGLE-EYE! THE BALDIES TOOK THE BAIT--HOOK, LINE AND SINKER! GET YOUR FLY-BOYS READY FOR ACTION, LIEUTENANT!


SOON AFTERWARD, IN ENEMY HEADQUARTERS...
WE HAVE BEEN TRICKED! THESE ARE MERELY DUMMY DEVICES!
PERHAPS THIS DIVING EQUIPMENT WILL BE VALUABLE TO OUR WEAPONS DESIGNERS!

MEANWHILE...
WE'VE GIVEN THEM ALL THE TIME THEY NEED! PULL THE TRIGGER, KEN BABY!
LET'S HOPE MY PLAN WORKS, RUSS!
BUZZ

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE INVADER BASE...
THAT METAL FITTING ON THE DIVING EQUIPMENT... WHY IS IT GLOWING?
BARRROOOM!

AND AS THE MARS TEAM WATCHES FROM SHORE...
YOUR GIMMICK WORKED, KEN! THAT DIVING SUIT WE MADE OUT OF PLASTIC HYPER-EXPLOSIVES BLEW THEIR BASE WIDE OPEN!
THEY HAD THEIR HEADQUARTERS ON ALCATRAZ ISLAND! BUT WE SEARCHED THAT AREA AND THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THEM!

IT'S SIMPLE! THE INVADERS USED THEIR ADVANCED SCIENCE TO BUILD A SECRET SUBTERRANEAN BASE UNDER THE ROCK... LIKE AN ANTS' NEST!

MOMENTS LATER, LED BY *MARS* MAN ADAMS, DIVE BOMBERS SWARM TO THE ATTACK...

BOOOOOM!

"OKAY, MEN! WE HAVE UNCOVERED THAT NEST OF RATS! LET'S *DRIVE THEM OUT!*"

BLAAAM!

KAPOW!

NEXT DAY AS PEACE REIGNS OVER THE SHATTERED CITY...

MARS MEN, YOU'VE DONE IT AGAIN! YOU'VE FACED AN ALIEN ENEMY EQUIPPED WITH WEAPONS WE DON'T EVEN DREAM OF... BUT YOUR INGENUITY AND *FIGHTING SPIRIT* STOPPED THEM COLD!

JUST THEN...

SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, GENERAL KRIPPS, BUT I WAS ORDERED TO BRING YOU THIS EMERGENCY MESSAGE AT ONCE!

BAD NEWS, MEN! THE INVADERS HAVE STRUCK AGAIN! YOUR TEAM HAS BEEN ORDERED TO WASHINGTON...BY THE PRESIDENT, HIMSELF!

LET'S GO, BOYS!

ANOTHER INVADER SNEAK ATTACK! CAN THE FIGHTING MEN FROM *MARS* DEFEAT THE SPACE ALIENS? *READ THE NEXT ISSUE OF MARS PATROL!*